

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner has imposed numerous rejections of the claims based upon a variety of prior art references. The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) are set forth below:

Claims 43-48, 51-53, 55-57, 59-61 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chen et al (U.S. patent 60/18033), herein Chen.

Claims 43, 45, 49 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Onwumere et al (U.S. patent 5,591,210), herein Onwumere.

Claims 43-45 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al (U.S. patent 6,207,762), herein Kobayashi.

Claims 43-45 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takao et al (JP publication 11-035675), herein Takao.

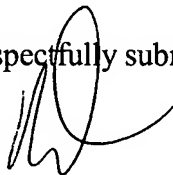
Claims 43-45 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chino et al (U.S. patent 6,746,562 and JP 2002-2060422), herein Chino.

The applicants have carefully studied the references and grounds of rejection conclude that biodegradable resins containing thermo-reversible cross-linked (TRSL) structures that have Diels-Alder type functional groups selected from the group consisting of alkenyl groups and groups having conjugated double bonds are not disclosed in the references cited by the examiner, and the references, when combined, do not, in an obvious manner, suggest the same to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Accordingly, the claims have been amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as inventive to reflect that the TRSL structures possess a Diels Alder type functional group selected from the group

consisting of an alkenyl group and a group having a conjugated double bond. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejections are the claims are traversed on these grounds, in view of the more particular subject matter designation set forth in this paper.

Wherefore, based upon the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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